**Source:** UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
**Date:** 10 Sept 2001

# UNHCR Afghan refugee statistics 10 Sep 2001

## Main Populations of Afghan Refugees & Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

| Location of Refugees | Number | Location of IDPs* | From | Number |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Iran | 1,500,000 | Badakshan | Nearby areas | 94,000 |
| Pakistan | ** 2,000,000 | Northern region | Nearby areas | 387,000 |
| Russia | ° 100,000 | Hazarajat region | Hazarajat/nearby areas | 75,000 |
| Central Asian Republics | 29,000 | Herat | North west | 200,000 |
| Europe | 36,000 | Southern Provinces | Various | 200,000 |
| Nth. America/Australia | # 17,000 | | | |
| India | 13,000 | | | |
| **TOTAL** | **3,695,000** | **TOTAL** | | **956,000** |

* * Includes 1.2 million refugees residing in refugee villages & c. 800,000 other Afghans (inc. at least 170,000 new arrivals)

° UNHCR estimate. Includes asylum-seekers pending temporary asylum.

# Includes: Canada - 9,300; USA - 4,300; Australia - 3,600.

Only includes recognized refugees, not asylum-seekers.

* Source: UNOCHA. Only includes 'new' IDPs created since the summer of 2000. Does not include sizeable numbers displaced earlier - e.g. into Kabul or the Panjshir Valley from the Shomali region.

## Afghan Repatriation Statistics

| From: | Pakistan (assisted) | Pakistan (spontaneous) | *Pakistan Subtotal* | Iran (assisted) | Iran (spontaneous) | *Iran Subtotal* | Grand Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1988/89 | | 200,000 | *200,000* | | | | **200,000** |
| 1990 | 63,000 | 87,000 | *150,000* | | | | **150,000** |
| 1991 | 174,000 | 26,000 | *200,000* | | | | **200,000** |
| 1992 | 1,274,000 | | *1,274,000* | 7,000 | 287,000 | *294,000* | **1,568,000** |
| 1993 | 133,000 | 225,000 | *358,000* | 337,000 | 269,000 | *606,000* | **964,000** |
| 1994 | 32,000 | 71,000 | *103,000* | 121,000 | 106,000 | *227,000* | **330,000** |
| 1995 | 77,000 | 76,000 | *153,000* | 92,000 | 103,000 | *195,000* | **348,000** |
| 1996 | 101,000 | 20,000 | *121,000* | 8,000 | 6,000 | *14,000* | **135,000** |
| 1997 | 71,000 | 13,000 | *84,000* | 2,000 | | *2,000* | **87,000** |



| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1998 | 93,000 | | *93,000* | 14,000 | | *14,000* | **107,000** |
| 1999 | 92,000 | | *92,000* | 9,000 | 152,000 | *161,000* | **253,000** |
| 2000 | 77,000 | | *77,000* | 184,000 | 31,000 | *216,000* | **293,000** |
| **Total °°** | **2,187,000** | **718,000** | ***2,905,000*** | **775,000** | **954,000** | ***1,730,000*** | **4,635,000** |

°° Some totals may not add up due to rounding

## Afghan Refugee Populations, 1980-2001 (as of 1 January)

| Year | Pakistan | Iran | India | Russian F. | Kazakstan | Kyrgystan | Tajikistan | Turkmenistan | Uzbekistan | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1980 | 400,000 | 200,000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 600,000 |
| 1981 | 1,400,000 | 500,000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1,900,000 |
| 1982 | 2,375,000 | 800,000 | 3,000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 3,178,000 |
| 1983 | 2,700,000 | 1,200,000 | 4,000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 3,904,000 |
| 1984 | 2,800,000 | 1,500,000 | 5,000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 4,305,000 |
| 1985 | 2,900,000 | 1,800,000 | 6,000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 4,706,000 |
| 1986 | 2,700,000 | 2,000,000 | 6,000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 4,706,000 |
| 1987 | 2,878,000 | 2,221,000 | 6,000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 5,105,000 |
| 1988 | 3,156,000 | 2,700,000 | 5,000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 5,861,000 |
| 1989 | 3,255,000 | 2,900,000 | 5,000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 6,160,000 |
| 1990 | 3,272,000 | 2,940,000 | 8,000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 6,220,000 |
| 1991 | 3,185,000 | 3,000,000 | 12,000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 6,197,000 |
| 1992 | 3,077,000 | 2,900,000 | 10,000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 5,987,000 |
| 1993 | 1,627,000 | 2,700,000 | 11,000 | 12,000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 4,350,000 |
| 1994 | 1,477,000 | 1,850,000 | 24,000 | 16,000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 3,367,000 |
| 1995 | 1,053,000 | 1,623,000 | 22,000 | 17,000 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 2,715,000 |
| 1996 | *1,200,000 | 1,420,000 | 20,000 | 19,000 | 2,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 2,000 | 30,000 | 2,695,000 |
| 1997 | *1,200,000 | 1,400,000 | 19,000 | 20,000 | 2,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 2,000 | 30,000 | 2,675,000 |
| 1998 | *1,200,000 | 1,400,000 | 20,000 | 17,000 | 2,000 | 1,000 | 2,000 | 1,000 | 3,000 | 2,646,000 |
| 1999 | *1,200,000 | 1,400,000 | 16,100 | ° 16,000 | 2,100 | 600 | 3,600 | 1,100 | 1,100 | 2,646,000 |
| 2000 | *1,200,000 | 1,326,000 | 14,500 | ° 100,000 | 2,300 | 700 | 4,500 | 1,400 | 1,000 | 2,650,000 |
| 2001 | *2,000,000 | 1,482,000 | 12,800 | ° 100,000 | 2,500 | 800 | 15,400 | 1,500 | 8,300 | 3,623,000 |

* From 1996 to 2000, estimates of the Afghan refugee population in Pakistan included all those residing in refugee villages -- whether registered or unregistered. Prior to 1996, Pakistan statistics only include registered refugees. Unregistered Afghans living outside refugee villages were excluded from all Pakistan statistics. The figure for 2001 is a government estimate and includes Afghans living outside refugee villages.

° Figures for Russian Federation up until 1999 only include asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR. The figures for 2000 and 2001 include asylum-seekers pending temporary asylum and are a UNHCR estimate.

1999 figures for the Central Asian Republics include only recognized Afghan refugees registered by UNHCR or by the relevant Government. Asylum-seekers were not included.

All figures for the Islamic Republic of Iran are based on government estimates. A very small proportion of Afghan refugees in Iran live in camps.

Tens of thousands of Afghan refugees live in countries other than those listed. However, no accurate estimate of their total number exists.

## Afghan Asylum-Seekers Arriving in Europe and Other Industrialized Countries

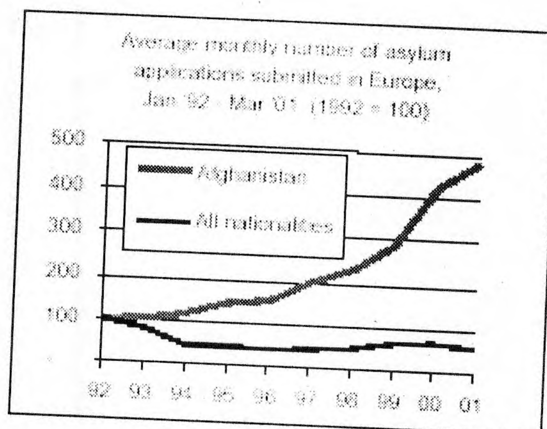
The numbers of Afghan asylum-seekers spreading out beyond the neighbouring asylum countries has climbed dramatically, especially over the past four years as conditions inside Afghanistan have continued to deteriorate. In 2000, Afghans were arriving in countries as diverse as Australia, Cambodia, Cuba and Iceland. In all, during 2000, Afghans applied for asylum in at least 68 countries across the world. Europe, in particular, has seen a very steep increase in numbers with the arrival rate almost doubling in the past two years.

## Numbers of Asylum Applications by Afghans in Europe Over Past Ten Years, 1991-2000

| | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total in 20 European Countries* | 8,500 | 8,000 | 8,100 | 9,400 | 11,700 | 12,300 | 16,000 | 18,300 | 23,100 | 34,000 | 149,600 |
| Total in 14 EU Countries | 8,200 | 7,700 | 7,900 | 9,200 | 11,200 | 11,300 | 14,500 | 15,100 | 16,800 | 28,900 | 130,800 |

* Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Rep., Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK

During the period 1991-2001, the average number of monthly applications of Afghan asylum-seekers submitted in Europe increased almost five-fold. During the same period, the total number of applications, including all nationalities , fell by almost half [see box].




The number of Afghan asylum applications in industrialized countries continues to rise. Europe received some 100,000 Afghan asylum-seekers during the past five years. Most Afghans applied for asylum in Germany (30%), the Netherlands (25%) and the United Kingdom (13%) [see box].

| | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Germany | 6,200 | 6,000 | 3,800 | 4,500 | 11,100 | 31,600 |
| Netherlands | 3,000 | 5,900 | 7,100 | 4,400 | 5,100 | 25,500 |
| UK | 700 | 1,100 | 2,400 | 4,000 | 5,200 | 13,400 |
| Other | 2,400 | 3,000 | 5,100 | 10,300 | 12,600 | 33,400 |
| Europe | 12,300 | 16,000 | 18,300 | 23,100 | 34,000 | 103,700 |

OECD member countries received some 35,700 Afghan asylum-seekers in 2000. Germany received the largest share of Afghan asylum-seekers (31%), followed by the United Kingdom (15%), the Netherlands (14%), Austria (12%) and Hungary (6%).

